



# News Release

## Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

*"Providing technological innovation for  
national security for over 40 years."*

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2004

### **DARPA DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP IN ROBOTICS**

Dr. Anthony J. Tether, director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), is named by *Scientific American* magazine as a "Policy Leader" among the 2004 *Scientific American 50* – the magazine's prestigious list recognizes outstanding contributions to science and technology annually.

*Scientific American* recognized Tether for organizing the DARPA *Grand Challenge*, a competitive prize event designed to accelerate research and development in autonomous ground vehicles for defense applications.

The DARPA *Grand Challenge* was conceived in response to a Congressional mandate that the Department of Defense develop autonomous vehicles to minimize or eliminate the need for human drivers, thus saving lives on the battlefield. Convinced that an effective way to achieve this goal was to reach beyond the traditional government procurement process, Tether encouraged the involvement of a new "community" of innovators, trailblazers and entrepreneurs.

"I'm proud to serve as Director of DARPA, a crown jewel in Defense research and development. Our ability to provide new technologies to our Armed Forces has been typically based on innovative ideas that come from DARPA program managers and researchers in industry and academia," Tether said. "However, the DARPA *Grand Challenge* allowed us to tap into an even broader community of ideas – mechanics, engineers, programmers, off-road racers, high school and university students, and others who may have never had the opportunity to focus their efforts on the needs of national security. Their participation in the DARPA *Grand Challenge* will help advance the life-saving technology that autonomous ground vehicles promise to provide. This award is a tribute to them as well as to me and DARPA."

In the DARPA *Grand Challenge*, unmanned vehicles rely on sensors and other advanced technologies in an attempt to navigate challenging terrain over an extensive course in the desert southwest. The first *Grand Challenge* was held in March 2004, but the \$1 million prize remained unclaimed. DARPA will conduct a second field test October 8, 2005, and has doubled the prize to \$2 million for the team of the vehicle that can complete the course the fastest within a 10-hour period.

Tether has served as the DARPA director since June 2001. He held a number of senior positions in industry and Government, including stints in both large and small companies and

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with the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He has served on Army and Defense Science Boards and on the Office of National Drug Control Policy Research and Development Committee. Tether is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He is a past recipient of both the National Intelligence Medal and the Department of Defense Civilian Meritorious Service Medal. Tether received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1964, and his master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from Stanford University in 1965 and 1969, respectively.

DARPA is the central research and development organization for the U.S. Department of Defense. Its mission is to maintain the technological superiority of the U.S. military and prevent technological surprise from harming our national security by sponsoring revolutionary, high-payoff research that bridges the gap between fundamental discoveries and their military use. Over DARPA's 46-year history, the agency has been responsible for a number of technical advancements, including the prototype aircraft that led to the Air Force's F-117 stealth fighter and B-2 stealth bomber, the Global Hawk unmanned aircraft, technology that underlies today's Internet, miniaturized Global Positioning System receivers, and low-cost night vision equipment. The agency's Government Fiscal Year 2005 budget is \$3 billion.

The 50 honorees recognized by *Scientific American* are chosen by the magazine's editors, with the help of distinguished outside advisors. The *Scientific American 50* spotlights a Research Leader of the Year, a Business Leader of the Year, and a Policy Leader of the Year. The list also recognizes leaders in research, business and policy in various technological categories including agriculture, chemicals & materials, communications, computing, energy, environment, and medical treatments, among others. *The Scientific American 50* list will appear in the December issue of the magazine.

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For additional information on DARPA, please contact Jan Walker, (703) 696-2404, or [Jan.Walker@darpa.mil](mailto:Jan.Walker@darpa.mil). For more information on the DARPA *Grand Challenge*, please visit the website (<http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge/index.html>) or contact Tom Goodwin, (703) 560-7875, or [tom@steponecommunications.com](mailto:tom@steponecommunications.com).